

computer.

REMARKS

In the Office Action, all claims (1-18) stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,272,470 to Teshima in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,734,915 to Roewer. In view of the cancellation of claims 1-18, this ground of rejection is deemed to be moot.

In the first Office Action, the Applicant pleaded ignorance of the precise basis for the ground of rejection based on Teshima and Roewer. When the Applicant scrutinized the extracts cited by the Examiner, the Applicant could find no support for the rejection. In the Final Rejection, the Examiner has provided a more precise reading of the claim language on the teachings of the cited prior art. For the first time, the Applicant understands the ground of rejection and is able to respond appropriately.

Contrary to the Examiner's assertion that the Applicant had failed, in response to the first action, to specify distinctions between the claimed invention and the cited prior art, the Applicant stated openly and clearly that the linked list of exam descriptions and the graphical screen that allowed interaction with that linked list were not shown in cited reference. New claims 19-30 have been submitted which are believed to capture these distinctions in clear language. It is also noted that these new claims further recite that an exam description listed

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on one screen can be selected and then that selected exam description will appear automatically in an Exam Description field on another screen. This feature is also not disclosed in either Teshima or Roewer.

In view of the foregoing, the Applicant submits that this application is now in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of the final rejection, reconsideration of the application, and allowance of claims 19-30 are hereby requested.

SUBMISSION OF CLEAN CLAIMS  
PURSUANT TO 37 CFR § 1.121

In compliance with 37 CFR § 1.121, the Applicant hereby submits "clean" copies of the claims now pending in this application as follows:

PENDING CLAIMS:

1. Canceled.
2. Canceled.
3. Canceled.
4. Canceled.
5. Canceled.
6. Canceled.
7. Canceled.
8. Canceled.
9. Canceled.
10. Canceled.
11. Canceled.
12. Canceled.
13. Canceled.
14. Canceled.
15. Canceled.
16. Canceled.
17. Canceled.

18. Canceled.

19. An imaging system comprising:

an operator interface for enabling an operator to input selections to said system;

a display screen;

a control platform for controlling said display screen to display a first screen comprising a Patient's Name field for displaying a patient's name and an Exam Description field for displaying an exam description in response to a first selection input by the operator via said operator interface; and

an exam list manager for controlling said display screen to display a second screen in place of said first screen in response to a second selection input by the operator via said operator interface, said second screen comprising a multiplicity of Exam Description fields in list format for displaying a corresponding multiplicity of exam descriptions in a stored linked list of exam descriptions arranged in alphabetic order, an Edit field in which the operator can enter an exam description to be added to said linked list, and a first activation zone for activating the insertion in alphabetic order of the exam description in said Edit field to said displayed list of exam descriptions in response to clicking on said first activation zone via said operator interface,

wherein said control platform further controls said display screen to display an updated version of said first screen in place of said second screen in response to selection of one of said exam descriptions displayed on said second screen via said operator interface followed by a third selection input by the operator via said operator interface, said Exam Description field of said updated version of said first screen displaying said selected exam description.

20. The system as recited in claim 19, further comprising a hard disk and means for writing said linked list to said hard disk.

21. The system as recited in claim 19, wherein said exam list manager further controls said display screen to display a second activation zone for activating the deletion of the exam description in said Edit field from said displayed list of exam descriptions in response to clicking on said second activation zone via said operator interface.

22. The system as recited in claim 21, wherein said exam list manager further controls said display screen to display a third activation zone for activating the deletion of all exam descriptions in said displayed list in response to clicking on said third activation zone via said operator interface.

23. The system as recited in claim 19, further comprising:

a networking port for communicating with a remote device on a network;

an image acquisition subsystem for acquiring frames of image data;

memory storing acquired frames of image data in respective image files;

an object constructing task for constructing a data object comprising a frame of image data from one of said image files and said selected exam description; and

a network manager for transferring said data object from said object constructing task to said networking port destined for said remote device.

24. The system as recited in claim 19, further comprising an image acquisition subsystem for acquiring frames of image

data, said image acquisition subsystem comprising an ultrasound transducer array.

25. An imaging system comprising:

an operator interface for enabling an operator to input selections to said system;

a display screen; and

a computer programmed to perform the following steps:

(a) controlling said display screen to display a first screen comprising a Patient's Name field for displaying a patient's name and an Exam Description field for displaying an exam description in response to a first selection input by the operator via said operator interface;

(b) controlling said display screen to display a second screen in place of said first screen in response to a second selection input by the operator via said operator interface, said second screen comprising a multiplicity of Exam Description fields in list format for displaying a corresponding multiplicity of exam descriptions in a stored linked list of exam descriptions arranged in alphabetic order, an Edit field in which the operator can enter an exam description to be added to said linked list, and a first activation zone for activating the insertion in alphabetic order of the exam description in said Edit field to said displayed list of exam descriptions in response to clicking on said first activation zone via said operator interface; and

(c) controlling said display screen to display an updated version of said first screen in place of said second screen in response to selection of one of said exam descriptions displayed on said second screen via said operator interface followed by a third selection input by the operator via said operator interface, said Exam Description field of said updated version

of said first screen displaying said selected exam description.

26. The system as recited in claim 25, further comprising a hard disk, said computer being further programmed to write said linked list to said hard disk in response to a Save command input via said operator interface.

27. The system as recited in claim 25, wherein said computer is further programmed to control said display screen to display a second activation zone for activating the deletion of the exam description in said Edit field from said displayed list of exam descriptions in response to clicking on said second activation zone via said operator interface.

28. The system as recited in claim 27, wherein said computer is further programmed to control said display screen to display a third activation zone for activating the deletion of all exam descriptions in said displayed list in response to clicking on said third activation zone via said operator interface.

29. The system as recited in claim 25, further comprising a networking port for communicating with a remote device on a network, and an image acquisition subsystem for acquiring frames of image data, wherein said computer is further programmed with:

an object constructing task for constructing a data object comprising an acquired frame of image data and said selected description; and

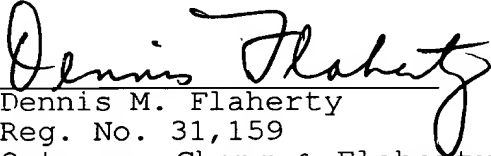
a network manager for transferring said data object from said object constructing task to said networking port destined for said remote device.

30. The system as recited in claim 25, further comprising an ultrasound transducer array controlled by an image acquisition subsystem for acquiring frames of image data, said image acquisition subsystem in turn being controlled by said computer.

Respectfully submitted,

June 9, 2003

Date

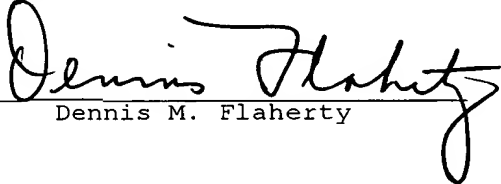
  
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

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June 9, 2003

Date

  
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